United Nations A/AC.109/2012/L.2

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
27 December 2011

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

I. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee conducted its work by considering the items before it directly at its plenary meetings. The meetings of the Bureau are open to all members of the Special Committee. The Special Committee has increasingly relied on informal consultations, thus striving to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

2. The Chair recommends to the Special Committee that it continue to use informal meetings to the maximum extent possible. In the meantime, the Chair may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

II. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2012. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chair would like to draw the particular attention of the Special Committee to paragraph 7 (d) of General Assembly resolution 66/91, in which the Special Committee was requested to develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the subject

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(A/AC.109/2012/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should be guided by General Assembly resolution 65/119, in which Member States were called upon to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism[1] and to cooperate with the Special Committee in updating the plan, as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

III. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chair will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for the consideration of items in plenary meetings and on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the Third International Decade.

6. In the meantime, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.[2]

IV. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

7. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Committee continue to formulate its decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend that its Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of its report to the Assembly.

V. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

8. At its sixty-sixth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

9. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

[1] A/56/61, annex.

[2] See A/66/23, chap. I, para. 30.

Annex

A. Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2012

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII), decision 37/421 and resolution 66/91)	As appropriate
Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 65/119 and report of the Secretary-General (A/56/61, annex))	
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 66/82)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 66/83)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 66/84)	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 66/85)	
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly resolution 58/316, annex, sect. D, para. 4 (b))	
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 66/522)	
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 66/86)	
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 66/87)	
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 66/88)	
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Guam (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Saint Helena (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 66/89 A and B)	
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 66/91, paras. 7 (e) and 14)	
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 66/91, para. 7 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 66/90)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision of 21 June 2010 concerning Puerto Rico (A/66/23, para. 25)	
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/2011/L.14, paras. 2 and 3)	
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/2011/L.14, para. 9)	

B. Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Thursday, 23 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
March and April (dates to be determined) (2 meetings)	Organization of the forthcoming Pacific Regional Seminar
Monday-Friday, 11-15 June (5 meetings)	Dissemination of information on decolonization
	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
	Question of Gibraltar
Monday, 18 June (2 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 21 June 2010 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Tuesday, 19 June (1 meeting)	Question of Western Sahara
	Question of New Caledonia
	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands
Wednesday, 20 June (1 meeting)	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
Thursday, 21 June (1 meeting)	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
Friday, 22 June (1 meeting)	Question of Tokelau
	Report of the Pacific Regional Seminar
	Report of the Special Committee: adoption of recommendations